

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, June 9, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Tippecanoe Room, Tippecanoe County Office Building
20 N 3rd Street, Lafayette, Indiana

Councilmembers present: President Kevin Underwood, Vice President John Basham, Jody Hamilton, Ben Murray, Kathy Vernon, and Lisa Dullum. Roland Winger was absent.

Others present: Attorney Doug Masson, Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, and Recording Secretary Jennifer Wafford.

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

President Underwood called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Auditor's Financial Report – Bob Plantenga

The 2020 financial statement shows a General Fund beginning cash balance of \$12,329,109. The projected miscellaneous revenue, property taxes, and deductions for circuit breakers leave the total funds available of \$62,084,666. After deducting encumbrances, the 2020 Budget, and minimum balances established by Council, the beginning net balance is \$1,800,784. So far, in 2020, there have been approved appropriations of \$70,000, making the balance available for appropriations \$1,730,784.

The Revenue Report highlights: Other Taxes/Local Income Tax (fund 0111) is a monthly receipt and is showing 53% of the estimated amount received as of the end of May. The balance includes the receipt of a \$1.25 million Special LIT distribution received from the State that was put into the General Fund. The Health Department Food Permits Fund (0322) shows a decrease in revenue for May, with only 30.5% of the expected revenue having been received to date. The Health Department Vital Records fund (0420) shows a receipt of 19% of the anticipated 2020 budget. The Fairgrounds Rental fund (0442) was anticipated to receive \$60,000 for 2020, and at the end of May has only received \$15,400. The last deposit in this fund was received on March 2, 2020. These revenues have been affected by the impact of Covid-19.

The fund balances show: The General Fund (1000) was at \$754,453.13 at the end of May, which is below the Minimum Balance of 7.5 million dollars. However, we will have property taxes that were collected in May that will be distributed. The LIT Economic Development Fund (1112) received a \$1 million Supplemental Distribution that is reflected in the May balance. The Court Services Substance Abuse Fund (2580) paid out more than it received in May. This was the result of the department having to work from home and having three payrolls for the month of May. The balance at the end of May is \$118,425.22. The County Self Insurance fund (4710) shows a cash balance of \$9.7 million, which is in addition to the \$3 Million from the Self Insurance Rainy day fund. Lastly, the LIT Property Tax Relief fund (6203) received a \$744,600 Supplemental Distribution, which will be used to lower property taxes for all the homestead properties in 2021. The fund also shows a \$2.9 million payment transferred to the Treasurer from the settlement for collections to be distributed for property tax relief.

III. Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Weston

The Account Balances and Interest Rates report was distributed and show an account balance of \$191,508,829.94 with May having a total interest of \$66,672.01. In comparison to May 2019, we have \$11 million more than usual, even with settlement collections being lower than normal. The increase in balance can be attributed to the LIT distribution, the cumulative funds accumulating, and a decrease in spending.

The interest distributions show the General Fund at \$494,845. The 2020 revenue budget projection for the General fund has been revised from \$1.2 million to \$825,000 due to the rate decrease. The interest from the County's self-insurance fund that is now deposited into the General Fund was about \$64,000 for 2020. The interest received in May is down from previous months, due to a CD maturing that previously paid significant interest.

As of the end of May, the Property Tax collections remitted to the Auditor were 82% for Spring taxes and 9.5% for Fall taxes. Tax payments are expected to continue to trickle in until the extended deadline of July 10, 2020. There are about four large manufacturing companies, and three shopping centers, which make up a significant tax amount, that is expected to be paid before the July deadline.

Staley Credit Union shows an increase in collections, due to having walk-in taxpayers diverted from the County building to their facility. Online payments have increased, and projections show it will hit \$15 million - \$16 million compared to \$12 million received last year. P-Card spending and rebates are projected to double from the total amount spent in the previous year. P-Card Fund (4973) shows a higher than average negative balance due to a large purchase on the card at the end of May.

IV. Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

V. Declaratory Tax Abatement

A. Dormie, LLC (SB-1 / Real Property)

Resolution 2020-18-CL Declaratory Resolution for Designation of ERA- Dormie, LLC

Attorney Masson said today the Council would be acting on the proposed Declaratory Resolution. The Resolution is for an 11-acre Economic Revitalization area for consideration of a tax abatement. He reminded the Council that the process begins with a Declaratory Resolution, then there is a public hearing and a Confirmatory Resolution at the next meeting. The statement of benefits will be considered during the confirmatory Resolution process. President Underwood asked if they had to only move on the Resolution today. Attorney Masson said that is correct.

Councilmember Dullum asked if the Resolution had gone before the Commissioners and where it was at in the process. Attorney Masson advised that because the area being considered is in a TIF district, the Resolution will also have to get Commissioner approval. The Declaratory Resolution will be considered at the next Commissioner meeting before the Confirmatory Resolution is presented at the next Council Meeting next month. Councilmember Hamilton asked if there was a building present on the property that is not being shown on the tract, and where are the 26 employees, mentioned in the SOB, coming from. Attorney Dan Tedder, representing the Petitioner, Mike Madrid. Mike Madrid is requesting a tax abatement for real property for a total capital investment of \$6 million. The investment will allow the petitioner to retain 26 employees, at an average salary of \$68,000, while adding 10 additional employees over the next 5-7 years. They request the abatement for 10 years and appreciate the Council's support.

- Councilmember Basham moved to approve Resolution 2020-18-CL as presented, second by Councilmember Vernon. Motion carried.

VI. Compliance with Tax Abatement Statement of Benefits for:

A. Apex Warehouse & Logistics LLC. (CF-1/Real Property) (3)

- Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve Apex Warehouse & Logistics LLC's Real Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Murray. Motion carried.

B. Liquidspring Partners, LLC. (CF-1/Real Property) (2)

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve Liquidspring Partners LLC's Real Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Murray. Motion carried.

C. Liquidspring LLC. (CF-1/Personal Property) (2)

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve Liquidspring LLC's Personal Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Hamilton. Motion carried.

D. SMT Properties, LLC. (CF-1/Real Property)

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve SMT Properties, LLC's Real Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Hamilton. Motion carried.

E. GIO 3 Holdings, LLC. (CF-1/Personal Property)

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve GIO 3 Holdings, LLC's Personal Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Hamilton. Motion carried.

F. GIO 3 Holdings, LLC. (CF-1/Real Property)

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve both GIO 3 Holdings, LLC's Real Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Hamilton. Motion carried.

G. All State Fasteners of Indiana. (CF-1/Personal Property)

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve All State Fasteners of Indiana's Personal Property Compliance Reports as presented, second by Councilmember Hamilton. Motion carried.

VII. Consent Agenda

- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the consent agenda as distributed, second by Councilmember Basham. Motion carried.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2020**B. Prosecutor –ICAC Task Force Fund 8198 (FF18)**

Transfer	From	\$	4,000	Travel & Mileage
	To			Minor Equipment

VIII. Additional Appropriations:**A. Sheriff – Robert Goldsmith presented and recommended the approval of:****1. Inmate Medical Co-Pay Fund 4719**

Appropriation	\$	53,500	Health & Medical Professionals
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- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is to pay inmate medical invoices and comes from copays paid by inmates.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

2. CLAF Byrne Law Enforcement Fund 9144

Appropriation	\$	7,062	Machinery & Equipment Safety
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- Councilmember Vernon moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is to create a special Deputy program and provide equipment. It will allow Jail Deputies to transport inmates, sit with them at the hospital and free up Deputies for street patrol.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

B. Community Corrections – Jason Huber presented and recommended the approval of:**1. Comm Corrections User Fee Fund 1122 CF20**

Appropriation	\$	100,000	Other Professional Services
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- Councilmember Murray moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Hamilton.

This is for expenses related to electronic monitoring and for Work-release uniform services for clients.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

C. Highway – *Stewart Kline presented and recommended the approval of:*

1. MVH-Restricted Fund 1173

Appropriation	\$	212,221	Infrastructure / Roads & Streets
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•Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is Federal Reimbursements received as a result of invoicing for right-of-ways.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

2. Cum Bridge Fund 1135

Reduction	\$	-80,000	Repair & Maintenance / Other Professional Services
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•Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is reducing professional service funds to appropriate it for additional capital improvements.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

3. Cum Bridge Fund 1135

Appropriation	\$	80,000	Construction & Reconstruction / Bridges
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•Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is to appropriate funds reduced from professional services to use for additional capital improvements.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

4. LRS Fund 1169

Reduction	\$	-254,367	LRS Maintenance / General Machinery & Equipment
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•Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is reducing machinery funds to appropriate it for roadway capital.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

5. LRS Fund 1169

Appropriation	\$	254,367	Construction & Reconstruction/ Roads & Streets
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•Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is appropriating reduced machinery funds to increase funds for roadway capital.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

D. Health – *Khala Hochstedler presented and recommended the approval of:*

1. CDBG COVID-19 Asst Fund 8901 FY21

Appropriation	\$	75,000	Institution or Medical
	\$	25,000	Travel & Training
	\$	100,000	Total Requested

•Councilmember Murray moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is for picking up prescriptions and groceries for Covid-19 quarantined patients and for mileage incurred by the department for those deliveries.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

E. DOIT – Ken Kroft presented and recommended the approval of:

1. LIT / GIS Fund 1112

Appropriation	\$	8,460	Other Professional Services
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•Councilmember Murray moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Dullum.

This is for the final installment for professional services to bridge the gap between a termination and a new hire in the GIS department.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

F. Auditor – Robert Plantenga presented and recommended the approval of:

1. Ineligible Homestead Fund 1216

Appropriation	\$	25,000	Buildings Municipal
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•Councilmember Hamilton moved to approve the appropriation as presented, second by Councilmember Basham.

This is to redo the front of the Auditor's office and install a front counter as a result of Covid-19.

These funds should be CARES act reimbursable.

President Underwood asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he called for the vote. Motion carried.

IX. Committee Reports -None**X. Unfinished/New Business**

-2021 Budget Hearings Begin 08/25/2020 @ 8:30 am / Evening Public Hearing 09/03/2020 @ 6:00 pm

Auditor Plantega advised that budget forms and salary statements have been emailed out to department heads and that the request was made to have forms back by July 1, 2020. Salary statement forms statutorily must be returned by July 1, 2020. Departments have been advised that there is a potential for revenue decrease for the General fund compared to 2020. Even with a 0% pay raise, there will be shortfalls for the budget that will need to be addressed.

XI. Commissioner FYI

Commissioner Brown states that all county buildings are now open for work, but with a restricted schedule at the Courthouse. The Fairgrounds and YMCA projects are both progressing well.

Councilmember Dullum added her thanks to the Commissioners, Tony Dildine, and the maintenance crew for the orange lights on the Courthouse dome to honor gun violence awareness week.

XII. Public Comment

-Margaret Hass stated she was confused about what the money for the sheriff's office is going to and why it was labeled as Machinery/Equipment if it was for staffing. She also wanted to know how the county council intends to include law enforcement accountability in the plans to spend public safety tax revenues. Sheriff Goldsmith replied that he was not sure why the appropriation was listed as Machinery/Equipment and that the Byrne Fund is used for equipment like firearms and gun belts.

-Susan Schechter commented on the Council appropriating money from the General fund for public safety and law enforcement. She mentioned the demonstrations in our County in regard to Police brutality that is a problem throughout the country. She wants the Council to consider if the taxpayers are funding systemic racism. She asked what we can do to rebalance the funding for our Police Department to other areas so that the Police are not handling Social Service issues and can focus solely on criminal matters.


-Councilmember Dullum thanked everyone who worked the election and acknowledged their hard work on what was considered a difficult and unusual election. There were 9,000 individuals who voted by mail, and she hopes we will continue to offer voting by mail as an option for future elections. Secondly, she acknowledges the protest that has taken place in previous weeks and hopes that the Council will find a way to inform citizens of actions that they are taking to address Police brutality in Tippecanoe County. As a counselor, she wants to review the public safety money that is being received and ensure that it is going to help in the correct ways.

-Erika Foster asked what the County's next steps are to move forward to support our Police via allocating funds to social services.

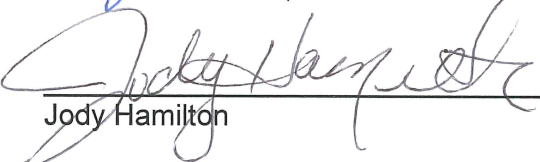
XIII. ADJOURNMENT


- Councilmember Murray moved to adjourn, second by Councilmember Dullum and the President adjourned the meeting.

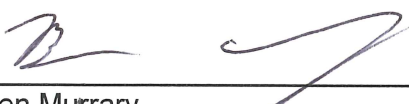
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

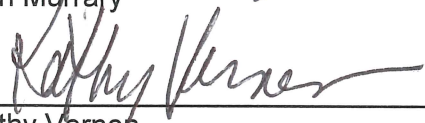

Kevin L. Underwood, President

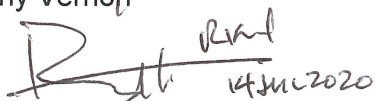

John R. Basham II, Vice President


Jody Hamilton


Lisa Dullum


Ben Murrar


Kathy Vernon


Roland K. Winger

ATTEST:


Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor 07/14/2020

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Wafford, Recording Secretary